

DELEGATE MITCHELL: I would like to request that the new language which has been accepted by the Committee and which is the proposal to be substituted instead of section 9, the language that presently appears in section—

THE CHAIRMAN: You want it to be distributed?

DELEGATE MITCHELL: It should be distributed so it can be on the desks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Pages, please distribute amendment E.

You may proceed, Delegate Mitchell.

DELEGATE MITCHELL: Mr. President, fellow delegates, the war in Viet Nam and the troubles in Greece and the skirmishes in other sections of the world are not the only wars that confront us as we sit here in this Convention. There is another war and a continuing battle, but it is between man and the machines. The first industrial revolution was brought in by steam by the discovery of steam and electricity, but we are now in a second industrial revolution brought on by electronics and atomics.

Now, in the first industrial revolution at least men were needed to man the machines in the factories and thousands of men poured from the farms into the cities to man the machines in the factories, to improve the standard of living, and to increase the volume of the output of goods necessary to raise our living standards. But we have a peculiar revolution now facing us. This second industrial revolution is a revolution in which the machines are replacing men, and it is of great concern to our national economy and to the economies in our State.

The warning of the economies, the warnings that we see everywhere in our State in the conditions of the people who are being displaced from employment by machines cannot be ignored as we sit in this Constitutional Convention.

There has been a lot of talk about natural rights as the basis of our Constitution's Bill of Rights based on John Locke's theory of natural rights. The United Nations changed the name a little bit and called it "human rights." Certainly as we sit here today one of the natural rights and human rights of any human being born into the society of our State is the right to have a job, the right to have meaningful employment if he is able bodied and wants to work. But because machines

are displacing men, we have an entirely new problem in unemployment in our nation. It is called involuntary idleness. Whole factories are being displaced because of automation, by the rapidity of the technological advances. It is cheaper for manufacturers to rebuild entire factories in new locations than to attempt to revise and restructure the old machinery in the old location so that all over our nation and even in our cities there are communities of people who are left without employment when factories pull up and move on.

Now, there is an old concept of unemployment and poverty which we have got to take a hard look at, and that is that if you want to work, you can get a job and you can pull yourself up by your bootstraps. At Christmas everybody begins to shell out some money to the poor, but none of us are really sitting down to look at this problem in all of its aspects. If we, with all of our intelligence and creativity, can put a man in outer space, we can solve this chronically continuing high unemployment rate which results from the second industrial revolution.

Now, in our own State, the problems are everywhere. I first became aware of it when I interceded for a man who had broken mentally under the stresses and strains of domestic problems and had to go into a mental hospital for recuperation. When I interceded with the steel company where he was employed, there was no longer a job for him in spite of his twelve years of seniority. The company, at a cost of some two million dollars, had installed new machinery which would displace four hundred men who had been working at that plant. I became aware then and began to give study to the whole situation of the rapid advance of technology and the lag in the preparation by our private sector and public sector, by government and industry for the social and human maladjustments which result.

We cannot afford another depression. I was just coming out of high school in that depression. The rich people threw themselves out of windows, the poor people just starved, and the banks shut down. There was little or no work for most of the people. Then our nation and our states got together and worked together with the kind of programs to put people back to work.

Should we wait for another depression? Should we wait for another collapse? Should we fail with all of our intelligence and our ability and our creativity without providing in the life of our State the ade-